

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Connecting device for producing an articulated connection between successive panels of a sectional door leaf, which device consists of a connecting element (20), which can be attached to the successive panels, and of a carrier element (10) designed to hold a guide element, which cooperates with a guide rail, in which device the carrier element (10) can be attached to the connecting element (20), preferably in a detachable manner, after the connecting element has been attached to the panel, and in which the connecting element (20) has at least one contact surface (24a), which can be laid against one of the panels, and a fastening surface (24b), which is a certain distance away from this contact surface in a direction perpendicular to it, where a fastening area (16) of the carrier element (10) can be inserted into the intermediate space formed between the panel and the fastening surface (24b) after the contact surface (24a) has been attached to the panel, and where the fastening surface (24b) has a first opening (28) and the fastening area (16) has a second opening (18), and where these openings (18, 28) can be brought into alignment with each other when the fastening area (16) is inserted into the intermediate space, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the carrier element (10) has at least one fourth opening (13) designed to

accept a retaining bolt of the guide element, which is parallel to the joint axis (26), and in that the carrier element (10) is designed as an essentially U-shaped profile in a plane parallel to the joint axis (26) and perpendicular to the contact surface (24a), where each of the two outer sidepieces of this profile has a fourth opening (13), and where the connecting sidepiece (16) has a second opening (18).

2. (Currently Amended) Connecting device according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the contact surface (24a) has at least one third opening (30).
3. (Currently Amended) Connecting device according to Claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connecting element (20) has parts (22, 24), which are connected to each other so that they can pivot around a joint axis (26), and in that the minimum of one third opening (30) is located between the first opening (28) and the joint axis (26).
4. (Currently Amended) Connecting device according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein a plane which is perpendicular to the contact surface (24a) and parallel to the joint axis (26) and passes through the minimum of one third opening (28) also passes through the minimum of one fourth opening (13).

5. (Currently Amended) Connecting device according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that,~~ Claim 1, wherein, when the two parts (22, 24) pivot around an angle of approximately 60°, a gap of more than 8 mm, preferably of more than 10 mm, and most preferably of more than 12 mm, is maintained between the retaining element (10) attached to one of these parts and the other part (22).
6. (Currently Amended) Sectional door leaf with a connecting device according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1.
7. (Currently Amended) Sectional door leaf according to Claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the connecting device is attached to one of the panels of the sectional door leaf by means of at least one fastening element, especially a screw, which passes through the minimum of one third opening.
8. (Currently Amended) Sectional door leaf according to Claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the fastening element passes through a reinforced edge of the panel, especially a flanged edge.